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DISSEMINATION CONTROL ABBREVIATIONS

NOFORN-	Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals
NOCONTRACT-	Not Releasable to Contractors or Contractor/Consultants
PROPIN-	Caution-Proprietary Information Involved
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Attachment to Z-13065/83

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NPIC/IEG (6/83)

2 JUNE 1983

**CONFIRMATION OF BM-21 MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHERS
CUAJACHILLO MILITARY BARRACKS AREA, NICARAGUA (SECRET/NOFORN)**

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1. **SIGNIFICANCE:** BM-21 MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHERS (MRL) WERE IDENTIFIED IN NICARAGUA FOR THE FIRST TIME ON OVERHEAD IMAGERY. (S/NOFORN)

2. **REMARKS:** BM-21 MRL WERE POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED NEAR MANAGUA, NICARAGUA, ON [] (U-2) IMAGERY OF [] ELEVEN BM-21 MRL WERE PARKED OUTSIDE A VEHICLE SHED AT CUAJACHILLO MILITARY BARRACKS AREA, A FACILITY WHICH HOUSES THE OMAR TORRIJOS ARTILLERY BRIGADE. THE BRIGADE WAS DEDICATED IN LATE JANUARY, AT WHICH TIME A PHOTOGRAPH OF ONE BM-21 MRL TAKEN DURING THE DEDICATION CEREMONIES APPEARED IN A NICARAGUAN NEWSPAPER. UNTIL THE [] U-2 MISSION; HOWEVER, BM-21 MRL HAD NOT BEEN CONFIRMED ON OVERHEAD IMAGERY. (S/NOFORN)

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THE BM-21 MRL MAY HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO NICARAGUA OVER A YEAR AGO. AN ALGERIAN MERCHANT SHIP, WHICH HAD LOADED 12 BM-21 MRL AT MERS EL KEBIR, ALGERIA, IN MID-MARCH, WAS MOORED AT EL BLUFF, NICARAGUA, ON [] THE NICARAGUAN ROLL-ON/ROLL-OFF SHIP, ARACELY, WAS ALONGSIDE. ON [] FIVE POSSIBLE MRL WERE OFFLOADED FROM THE ARACELY AT RAMA PORT FACILITIES [], 50 NM UPRIVER FROM EL BLUFF. (SWN)

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THE BM-21 MRL HAS FORTY 122MM ROCKETS ARRANGED IN FOUR ROWS OF TEN, MOUNTED ON THE REAR OF A URAL TRUCK. THE MAXIMUM RANGE OF EACH ROCKET IS APPROXIMATELY 10 TO 20 KM, DEPENDING ON ROCKET LENGTH. THIS WEAPON SYSTEM IS HIGHLY MOBILE AND CAPABLE OF PROVIDING AREA SATURATION FIRE. (S/NOFORN) []

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3. [] COORDINATES 12-07-36N 086-20-13W (S)

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